

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00579 01 OF 02 241945 Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INT-08 NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 COA-02 EB-11 COME-00 RSR-01 /127 W

----- 027311

O 241755 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3646

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USEC BRUSSELS PRIORITY 213

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT IMMEDIATE

COMICEDEFOR IMMEDIATE

SECRET SECTION 1 OF 2 REYKJAVIK 0579

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP MARR PBOR IC UK

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE AND THE FISHERIES DISPUTE:
PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF: REYKJAVIK 0573

1. LAST NIGHT AT ISRAELI RECEPTION, GOI PRIMIN
JOHANNESSON APPROACHED ME AND STATED THAT HE HOPED
I WAS KEEPING PRES NIXON FULLY INFORMED OF THE DE-
VELOPMENTS IN THE FISHERIES DISPUTE OF THE PAST FEW
DAYS. I REMARKED THAT THE EMB WAS SENDING REPORTS TO WASH.
HE SAID THAT IT WILL NOW BE " ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE" TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 REYKJA 00579 01 OF 02 241945 Z

SEPARATE THE FISHERIES DISPUTE AND THE IDF RETENTION ISSUE AND THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO PRES NIXON ABOUT BOTH NEXT WEEK. I REMARKED IT IS TO THE INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED FOR THE FISHERIES DISPUTE AND THE BASE ISSUE TO CONTINUE TO BE KEPT SEPARATE. I COMPLIMENTED HIM ON THE STATESMANSHIP THAT HE HAS SHOWN SO FAR IN KEEPING THE TWO ISSUES SEPARATE AND STATED THAT IN FACT THEY ARE NOT CONNECTED. HE DIFFERED BY SAYING THE BASE IS A NATO BASE; THAT ONE NATO COUNTRY HAS SENT NAVAL FORCES INTO ANOTHER NATO COUNTRY WITHOUT NATO DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT; AND THAT HE REGRETS THE UNITED STATES MILITARY AT KEFLAVIK FEEL THEY CANNOT ASSIST ICELAND IN THIS TIME OF NEED. I SUGGESTED THE SITUATION CALLS FOR PATIENCE AND FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT HE CONTINUE TO DISPLAY THE STATESMANSHIP IN THIS SITUATION AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, REITERATING AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT THE TWO ISSUES ARE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT. I ARGUED THAT ANY ADVERSE ACTION BY GOI AGAINST THE IDF WOULD HAVE LONG- LASTING AND FAR- REACHING REPERCUSSIONS WHICH I FELT ICELAND WOULD ALSO FEEL AND ULTIMATELY REGRET AS BEING CONTRARY TO HER OWN INTERESTS AS WELL AS THOSE OF HER ALLIES. I STATED I HOPED THE IDF ISSUE WOULD NOT BE CAUGHT UP IN THE EMOTIONS OF THE FISHERIES ISSUE.

2. THE PRIMIN SAID HE HAS ALREADY SHOWN LOTS OF PATIENCE TOWARD THE BRITISH. HE WILL TRY TO SHOW PATIENCE TOWARD THE IDF, BUT THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT. HE SAID ALTHOUGH HE PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE TWO ISSUES SEPARATE, THE PUBLIC AND OTHERS IN HIS GOVT WILL NOT PERMIT HIM TO DO THIS FOR LONG. HE ENDED THE CONVERSATION BY REITERATING THAT HE HOPED I WAS KEEPING PRES NIXON INFORMED BECAUSE HE WOULD DEFINITELY WANT TO TALK TO THE PRESIDENT ABOUT BOTH MATTERS AND ASSUMED THAT THESE MATTERS WOULD NATURALLY BE OF INTEREST TO THE PRESIDENT SINCE THEY AFFECT ATLANTIC COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS.

3. SOON AFTER THIS CONVERSATION, TOMAS KARLSSON, CO- EDITOR OF THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY NEWSPAPER, TIMINN, PULLED ME ASIDE AND TOLD ME THAT HE WAS QUITE WORRIED ABOUT THE BASE ISSUE. HE SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN DETACHED FROM THE DAY- TO- DAY ACTIVITIES OF THE NEWSPAPER TO WORK WITH THE PRIM ON NEXT STEPS REGARDING THE IDF RETENTION ISSUE. HE SAID THE BRITISH ACTION HAS NOW FORCED THE HAND OF THE PRIMIN AND OF THOSE IN THE GOVT WHO WERE HOPING TO PLAY A MODERATING ROLE ON THE IDF ISSUE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 REYKJA 00579 01 OF 02 241945 Z

HE SAID PROPONENTS OF THE IDF ARE LYING LOW AND REMARKED THERE IS NO QUESTION NOW ABOUT THE GOVT INVOKING ARTICLE VII OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT. HE THOUGHT THE ACTION WOULD BE SOON, BUT DID NOT KNOW THE EXACT DATE. THIS MIGHT BE DETERMINED AT A CABINET MTG SET FOR NEXT MONDAY OR TUESDAY. HE SAID WE WOULD BE IN FOR HARD TIMES. HE SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK WITH ME VERY CLOSELY IN THE ENSUING WEEKS AND MONTHS ON HOW TO

LESSEN THE IMPACT AGAINST THE BASE DURING THE US- GOI BASE TALKS
THAT WILL HAVE TO COMMENCE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. (COMMENT:
KARLSSON IS CO- EDITOR WITH THORIN THORARINSSON, WHO IS CHRMN
OF THE ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS CMTE. HE OFTEN EXPRESSES
THORARINSSON' S VIEWS. THORARINSSON PLAYS A STRONG ROLE IN GUIDING
THE THREE PROGRESSIVE PARTY MINISTERS IN THE CABINET.)

ARLSSON ALSO REMARKED THAT IN NEXT WEEK' S CABINET MTG
IT WILL ALSO BE DECIDED AS TO WHETHER TO TAKE THE FISHERIES
DISPUTE TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.
IRVING

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

ADP000
SECRET

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00579 02 OF 02 242001 Z

70
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INT-08 NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 COA-02 EB-11 COME-00 RSR-01 /127 W
----- 027468

O 241755 Z MAY 73 ZFG
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3647
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
USEC BRUSSELS PRIORITY 214
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
CINCLANT IMMEDIATE
COMICEDEFOR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 REYKJAVIK 0579

4. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER MY CONVERSATION WITH KARLSSON,
PETUR SIGURDSSON, DIRECTOR OF THE ICELANDIC COAST GUARD,
PULLED ME ASIDE AND TOLD ME THAT HE ASSUMED I COULD DETECT THE
STRONG EMOTION IN THE COUNTRY AGAINST THE BRITISH ACTION. HE,

TOO, REMARKED THAT THE IDF AS A NATO BASE IS BEING DRAWN INTO THE FISHERIES ISSUE AND WE BETTER BE PREPARED FOR TOUGH GOING FROM NOW ON. I TRIED AGAIN IN THIS CONVERSATION AS I DID WITH THE PRIMIN AND WITH KARLSSON TO BREAK THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO ISSUES. SIGURDSSON SAID THAT IN A MTG WITH THE PRIMIN EARLIER IN THE DAY THE PRIMIN INDICATED THAT IN A REVISED DEFENSE AGREEMENT THE PRIMIN WANTS ICELAND'S COAST GUARD TO HAVE AN INSHORE SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY AND THAT HE MAY USE THIS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 REYKJA 00579 02 OF 02 242001 Z

AS ONE OF THE BARGAINING POINTS IN A NEW AGREEMENT ASKING THE USG TO FINANCE SUCH AN ICELANDIC INSHORE SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER THIS CONVERSATION MEANT THE PRIMIN WAS STILL A PROPONENT OF THE IDF, SIGURDSSON REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, BUT THAT HE WAS UNDER VERY STRONG POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM WITHIN THE GOVT TO AT LEAST MAKE IT TOUGH FOR THE IDF IF THE IDF WAS ULTIMATELY NOT GOING TO BE ASKED TO LEAVE.

5. COMMENT: THE AMBASSADORS FROM NORWAY AND SWEDEN ALSO APPROACHED ME THAT EVENING ASKING WHETHER I WAS AWARE THAT THE ICELANDIC PUBLIC WAS ASSOCIATING THE FISHERIES ISSUES AND THE BASE ISSUE. THE NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ME THIS AFTERNOON TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN. EMOTIONS ARE RUNNING HIGH IN ICELAND WITH NATO CONTINUING TO LOSE PUBLIC SUPPORT. FRIENDS OF NATO AND THE IDF FEEL THEY ARE NOW ON THE DEFENSIVE. OPINION LEADERS ARE WATCHING WITH INTEREST WHAT ROLE THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL WILL PLAY IN THE FISHING DISPUTE.

IRVING

SECRET

NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973REYKJA00579
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730553/aaaajsqp.tel
Line Count: 203
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 REYKJAVIK 0573
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980304
Subject: IDF RETENTION ISSUE AND THE FISHERIES DISPUTE: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT
TAGS: MARR, OVIP, IC, UK, PBOR
To: BONN
COPENHAGEN
EUR
LONDON
NATO
OSLO
SECSTATE WASHDC

STOCKHOLM
US EC BRUSSELS

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005